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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 7 :
A01N 63/00, 63/02, C12N 15/63, 15/82, C07K 14/24

A2

(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/30453

(43) International Publication Date: 2 June 2000 (02.06.00)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB99/03846

(22) International Filing Date: 18 November 1999 (18.11.99)

(30) Priority Data:
9825418.8 19 November 1998 (19.11.98) GB

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(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published
Without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report.

(54) Title: INSECTICIDAL AGENTS

(57) Abstract

Disclosed are novel strains of *Xenorhabdus bovienii* deposited with NCIMB under accession numbers NCIMB 40985 and NCIMB 40986 which are a source of orally acting pesticides. Also disclosed are pesticidal agents which are (i) obtainable from a *X. bovienii* strains; (ii) have oral insecticidal activity against one or more species of insect of the order Lepidoptera, Coleoptera or Homoptera; (iii) are substantially heat stable to 50 °C; and (iv) act synergistically with *B. thuringiensis* cells as an oral insecticide. The invention further makes available nucleic acids encoding these and variant toxins, plus vectors, host cells and plants transformed with the same. Also disclosed are insecticidal polypeptides (and antibodies raised to them) and compositions, plus methods of using all of these materials for the control of pests, particularly insects.